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CASH FOR CLAIRE

Money pours in for local charity after runner dies in marathon

By Oliver Evans

A CHARITY said it had been "overwhelmed" by support in memory of a tragic London Marathon competitor, who was running to raise money for the Banbury Samaritans.

Claire Squires was running Sunday's event for Banbury and District Samaritans when she collapsed on the final stretch of the course.

The Leicestershire hairdresser, 30, had until then raised £400 for the branch, where her mother, Priscilla, is a volunteer.

But this had soared to £336,000 as the Banbury Cake went to press.

Her family, who live in Leicestershire, will now decide where the cash is spent.

Samaritans chief executive Catherine Johnstone said: "We desperately wish that it was not under these circumstances, but we have been overwhelmed by the response from people donating in Claire's memory."

"These donations will be put into a tribute fund and, following discussions with the family, will go towards projects they feel would have been important to Claire."

She said her Claire's mother had been a volunteer for the Samaritans for more than 24 years, adding: "This is an incredibly sad time for Claire's family and all those who knew her."

Ms Squires last year climbed Mount Kilimanjaro



for the RAF Association to raise £1,500.

Prior to the marathon, a post on the charity's website said: "It is Claire's second run in the marathon and last year climbed Kilimanjaro! What a girl!"

A post on her *Just Giving* page – where donations have flooded in – said: "Hi guys,

As you all know, I am running the London Marathon. It was just going to be for fun, but it's a fab opportunity to raise money for my charity, the Samaritans.

"If everyone I know could donate £5 that would be a great help and change lives."

Newspapers reported she

had also been motivated to support the charity by the death of her brother, Grant, in 2001.

She collapsed in Birdcage Walk, near St James's Park, on the final stretch of the 26.2-mile course. Tests to establish why she collapsed are due to take place this week.

ABOVE: Runners on the last stretch of the London Marathon and, inset, victim Claire Squires



Marathon runner rescued by gift of a trainer – Page 3



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InBRIEF**Date for Old Town Party**

■ Preparations for the third Banbury Old Town Party are now under way.

This year, in honour of the 2012 Olympics and the Diamond Jubilee, the theme will be red, white and blue and will also feature an armed forces parade and St Mary's Church fete.

Joining in the free fun event on Saturday, June 30, will be a cast of roving magicians, stilt walkers, strolling jazz musicians and balloon artists as well as art activities and historical walks on offer.

For further information follow @BanburyOldTown or visit BanburyOldTown.co.uk/blog/old-town-party

Experts offer relics advice

■ Archaeology experts will help to identify items unearthed by the public at a Banbury Museum open day.

The free surgery run by the finds liaison officer takes place between 10.30am and 4.30pm on May 1.

Player admits match attack

■ A 26-year-old footballer has admitted assaulting an opposition player during a friendly match.

Benjamin Louther was playing for Wroxton Heath when he punched King's Sutton player Callum Black, fracturing his jaw.

The incident took place on August 31.

Louther, of Sir Henry Jake Close, Banbury, admitted causing grievous bodily harm at Oxford Crown Court on Friday and was bailed to be sentenced on May 11.

■ Three-year campaign results in £100,000 unit

Patient's delight as dialysis unit opens

By Oliver Evans

FOR 15 years Banbury resident Steven Berry has woken at 4.30am, three times a week to travel to Oxford for renal dialysis.

The 60-mile round trip to

the city's Churchill Hospital meant he was out the door at 5.45am and did not get back home until about 2.30pm.

But on Monday his journey was little over five minutes – as he became the first patient to use The Horton General Hospital's newly installed

renal dialysis equipment. He and wife, Miranda, have campaigned for three years for the £100,000 unit to save north Oxfordshire residents the regular, tiring journeys to Oxford.

The Kenilworth Way father-of-three left home at 6.45am for four hours of treatment – from 7am to 11pm – and was back by 11.30am.

The 54-year-old – who was later joined by four other local patients – said: "It is better than winning the Lottery."

He said: "I am not so tired. I feel a lot better."

"I will be able to do things I couldn't do before. I can get on with tending my garden or take the dog for a walk."

And he said of his wife of 36 years, whose efforts included collecting a 500-signature petition: "I am really proud of her."

Mr Berry suffers from nephrotic syndrome, a kidney disease where blood, protein leaks into the urine. Dialysis filters this out.

Mrs Berry, 52, said: "It was absolutely brilliant. Being treated in the new unit has made such a difference."

Previously, Mr Berry was picked up by a volunteer driver to take him to Oxford for a session from 8am to midday.

But she said: "He had to wait around for transport with all the other patients."

"It could have been anything up to an hour, which was causing a lot of stress."

Mrs Berry added: "Before, he was so tired and washed out with waiting and the dialysis."

"You can see the difference in him straight away. He is much happier."

The new machines in Banbury, staffed by two new nurses, have gone in the hospital's former medical assessment unit, which has moved on to the Mulberry Ward.

It will initially take ten patients on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but this will increase to 21 people six weeks from now, when it will become a Monday-to-Saturday service.

Most patients go three days a week and all previously had to visit the Churchill.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust bosses said the Banbury unit could expand to meet an expected growth in demand.

Matron for dialysis, Allie Thornley, said: "I know how much of a difference it makes to the patients to be able to get to and from treatment quickly."

"We had patients who were able to walk to their treatment rather than spend time travelling to and from the Churchill."

Patients will come from an area from Chipping Norton to Brackley. Bicester patients will still go to Oxford.

The trust split the costs with its Charitable Funds, which raises cash for services.



Steven and Miranda Berry at the Horton Hospital's new Renal Dialysis Unit OX51586

Ballot is launched for royal party

A PUBLIC ballot is being held for anyone hoping to go to the Queen's garden party in June.

More than 1,000 tickets are available to the public, making up a quarter of those up for grabs with the others going to civic and community leaders as well as representatives of voluntary organisations.

The event, near Henley-on-Thames, is being jointly organised by the Lord Lieutenants of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire as part of the Queen's UK-wide Diamond Jubilee tour.

It will feature a river pageant themed around the Thames, celebrating the important role the river has played in the life of the three counties.

Anyone hoping to go the garden party, held on Monday, June 25, needs to send their application form to the Oxfordshire Lieutenantcy Office in County Hall, Oxford, by Monday, April 30.

The ballot is open to residents of Oxfordshire, aged 18 or over, and each successful applicant will be given a double ticket so they can take a guest, with 600 pairs of tickets available.

Only one application per person is permitted and successful applicants will be notified by the end of May.

Application forms can be downloaded from oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/diamond-jubilee-local-events-and-projects or hard copies can be obtained at public libraries.

Teens offered a challenge

YOUNG people from across the county are being invited to take part in this year's Summer Challenge. The free programme for 16- and 17-year-olds is part of the National Citizen Service, a Government scheme focusing on personal development and supporting the Government's Big Society agenda.

There are 105 places available and the programme, including laser gaming and a high ropes day trip, runs from Thursday, July 26, to Friday, August 31.

See oxfordshire.gov.uk

Top police post up for grabs

PEOPLE thinking of standing as an elected police crime commissioner in Oxfordshire seem to be "keeping their powder dry".

No one has yet put themselves forward for the £85,000-a-year post in the Thames Valley, which will be decided at an election in November.

The commissioners will have the power to sack chief constables, set out a five-year police and crime plan, determine local policing priorities and set a local precept and the annual force budget in consultation with chief constables.

They will replace the local police authorities after elections on November 15.

The idea, brought in by the Conservatives, aims to make the functions and

budgets currently held by police authorities more accountable.

But it seems that the controversial commissioner's post has provoked a mixed reaction from people in the county.

One Oxfordshire MP, Labour's Andrew Smith, said that the commissioners were not needed and labelled them "a colossal waste of money".

Nicola Blackwood, a Conservative Oxfordshire MP, said: "The new post will play a vital role in our communities and I encourage those with a passion for making their neighbourhoods safer to consider joining the race as candidates in the lead up to the election in November."

Everyone on the local government electoral



Tory Kieron Mallon

register will be eligible to vote.

Oxfordshire county councillor Kieron Mallon, a Conservative, has refused to rule himself out.

He said: "It seems to be the case that people in Thames Valley are keeping their powder dry."

As yet there is no confirmed deadline for candidates to declare their interest.

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■ Bystander offers her own trainer so Dawn can complete marathon

Spectator comes to the rescue

By Laura Jones

A CINDERELLA moment couldn't stand in the way of determined Dawn Williams, who was aiming for a time of three hours 40 minutes as she took on the London Marathon.

Just minutes into the race the Banbury crematorium gardener lost a shoe, as another runner stepped on the back of her trainer when two streams of competitors merged at the three-quarter-of-a-mile mark.

With thousands of runners behind her, she was unable to pick it up and was forced to hobble to the sidelines to seek help from a steward. He explained the

first opportunity she would have to look for it would be 45 minutes later, when the wave of competitors had passed by.

Hearing her predicament, a spectator, who lived nearby, kindly volunteered to run home and get her a pair of trainers – but then returned with a pair of fashion pumps that wouldn't have been suitable for the 26 miles that lay ahead.

At this point another woman offered Dawn her own trainers, but the competitive 46-year-old decided only to take one because her time chip was still attached to one the shoe she was wearing.

"She was just a spectator and she took the shoes off her feet," Dawn explained.

After a delay of more than 15 minutes and wearing odd

shoes, she set off again, eventually completing the marathon in three hours 45 minutes – just five minutes slower than her target time – to bag a place in next year's race.

"I don't know who she was and I have no way of giving the trainer back to her," Dawn said.

"I've raised £600 for the Banbury Sea Cadets and I was panicking, thinking 'I can't pull out – I haven't even run a mile.'"

"It felt horrible running in different shoes but I've got no blisters.

"They were about £90 Nike trainers. I was so grateful to the spectator because she went above and beyond to help me.

"I would love to know who she is so I can give her the trainer back."



Dawn Williams with the odd trainers
OX51555

InBRIEF

Council tells of homes boost

■ MORE affordable homes were provided in the district in 2011/12 than in any other year, council bosses have revealed.

Cherwell District Council planned to provide 100 homes, but delivered 213 in the 12 months up to March 31.

Schemes, including shared ownership, were built at sites like Stanbridge Hall, Banbury and Cassington Road, Yarnton.

The director of development, Calvin Bell said these "help housing applicants get their foot on to the property ladder".

Developments still in the pipeline include Bryan House, Bicester and Dashwood Road, Banbury.

Wrong name

■ AN article in the April 12 edition of *The Banbury Cake* about an Ofsted report for Hill View Primary School, Banbury, stated that the headteacher was Jo Dynan. The headteacher is in fact Claire Ferens. Ms Dynan is the chairman of governors. We apologise for the error.

InCOURT

APPEARING at Banbury Magistrates Court:

■ **Attiq Akhtar**, 18, of Fergusson Road, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis (Class B) in Banbury on December 3. Fined £36, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **Andrew Cash**, 29, of Campion Court, Northampton, admitted

shoplifting four cans of Red Bull valued at £5 from Banbury Service Station on February 19. Fined £50, a £15 victims' surcharge and £40 costs.

■ **Will Blencowe**, 18, of Horsefair, Chipping Norton, admitted assault by beating and criminally damaging a window at the Golden Pheasant Hotel in Burford on

November 5. Given 100 hours' unpaid work and told to pay £40 costs and £150 compensation.

■ **Terry Debanks**, 30, of Ridgefield Road, Oxford, admitted shoplifting household cleaning goods valued at £268 from Sainsbury's in Banbury on March 9. Fined £116, a £15 victims' surcharge and £100 costs

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InBRIEF**Hoping to raise the roof**

■ Another fundraising concert is to be held to help raise funds to replace a church roof that was stripped by lead thieves.

Pianist Valerie Tryon will play at the event on Saturday to boost the coffers of St Mary's Church.

The Warkworth church needs £30,000 to replace its roof, which was hit twice by lead thieves in August last year. It has so far raised £10,000.

A November show in Middleton Cheney collected £750.

The concert will be held at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Deddington at 7.30pm. Tickets are available on the door, priced £15, or £10 from Derek Jones on 01295 710515.

Charity boost

■ About £3,000 was raised for a soldiers' charity through a dinner hosted by the chairman of Cherwell District Council.

Timothy Hallchurch held the dinner at the Tythe Barn, near Launton, on Friday, April 13, for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, which helps injured troops.

■ Series of dawn raids focus on waging war on local criminals

Police squad that rids district of danger drugs

By Samantha McGregor

THOUSANDS of pounds of worth of drugs have been taken off the streets of Cherwell in a series of police raids.

A five-strong team of officers, led by Sergeant Matt Powell, have been waging war on criminals in and around Banbury since January.

Called *Operation Dragnet*, the team has arrested more than 40 people in connection with drugs, burglary and assault, and carried out a dozen raids.

In total 11 cannabis factories, including eight in Banbury, have been destroyed and about 600 cannabis plants seized and destroyed in the past three months.

About 300 of those were mature plants, the others were seedlings.

Four people have been charged with possession with intent to supply and attempted production of controlled drug class B. One person is still on bail and four others were cautioned.

Drugs, including magic mushrooms,

cocaine, heroin, cannabis, amphetamine tablets, with a street value of about £10,000 have been seized along with about £4,000 in cash.

Sgt Powell issued a stark warning to anyone connected with crime that his team were on their trail, and urged the public to contact police about any

suspicious behaviour. He said: "The Dragnet team has the flexibility to either go on the hunt for criminality, disrupting and detecting it proactively, or to respond to any emerging issues and intelligence as it is reported by the public."

"We want to encourage the

communities of Cherwell to call in with any information about criminality in their neighbourhood, no matter how insignificant they think it is.

"Anyone involved in criminality, or even just on the fringes of it, needs to know that, with the public's help, they will appear on our radar."

"We will then make it our business to disrupt their criminal activity and ensure that they feel the full weight of the law."

The team also has a top-ten list of known criminals who get a visit from officers at any time of the day or night to check what they are up to.

Supt Andy Boyd said: "The results that this team has achieved since they began operating speak for themselves."

"The law-abiding people of Banbury can rest assured that the Dragnet team have put us firmly on the front foot, confronting those who choose to live a life of criminality."

"The message is simple, if you live in Banbury and choose to commit crime, you can expect to face disruption to your daily routine and regular trips to the police station."



Sgt Powell: 'It our business to disrupt criminal activity and ensure that they feel the full weight of the law'



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Town road is closed as bomb disposal team is called in

POLICE and bomb disposal experts were called in after a suspicious item was found to be giving off fumes at a building site.

The fire service and police were first called to Middleton Road, Banbury, and the road was closed last Thursday. Residents and local businesses were advised to close their windows.

Police said the item was thought to be old munitions but was not explosive.

The bomb disposal team eventually took away a damaged grenade. The street was re-opened at about 7pm.



Four facing deportation

By Oliver Evans

FOUR Bangladeshi men are facing the possibility of being deported, after immigration raids on two restaurants in Banbury.

A 22-year-old man was arrested after checks on staff at Voujon, in South Bar Street, on Wednesday of last week.

The UK Border Agency said he had used a false passport and was in breach of student visa conditions.

A 31- and 26-year-old were then arrested at

Jaypur Balti Cuisine, in Parsons Street, for overstaying their visas.

At the same address, a 29-year-old man was also held for entering the UK illegally.

All four were detained pending their removal from the UK.

Another 31-year-old Bangladeshi man was

questioned at the Jaypur restaurant for working without permission and was granted immigration bail.

The restaurants involved could face a fine of up to £10,000 for each worker, unless they can prove that all the correct checks were carried out.

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■ Giving a helping hand as youngsters begin their rehearsals

Downton Abbey actress offers tips to future stars

By Laura Jones

DOWNTON Abbey actress Joanne Froggatt, who plays Anna in the hit TV series, passed on the secrets of stardom to Oxfordshire youngsters.

The star joined in workshops with four- and five-year-olds and also helped older children as they began rehearsals for *Down and Out in the West End*.

She said: "I've been working with the four- and five-year-olds, so we've been doing music and drama games."

"They are too young for *Downton*, but there's another group aged seven to 14, who may have more of an idea."

"I have already spoken to a few mums who are *Downton* watchers. There were some nice comments about the show."

Despite often filming the TV series in Bampton, she said she was rarely recognised here.

"I do look quite different off screen," she explained.

"But people do look at me and I can almost see them thinking: 'You look familiar'. But it's not an instant recognition."

"I do get quite a warm reception. In the past I have played characters who aren't very nice. And then you do get a very different reaction from the public."

Explaining her connection to Banbury drama school, the i-stage academy, where Saturday's workshops were held, she said: "I'm the best friend of drama teacher Katie Dunstall. We trained together at stage school."

"She's a close friend and that's why I'm here. We try to support each other's ventures."

Four-year-old Lewis Westworth, who goes to Shenington Primary School, was one of those to take part in the workshop.

He said: "I've been playing musical statues and pretending to be Robin Hood."

"It has been a lot of fun because I like being Robin Hood and we've been dressing up."



Joanne Froggatt, who plays Anna in the programme *Downton Abbey*, visited the youngsters at the i-stage academy at Sibford School OX51572

Aiming for a jubilee record

ORGANISERS of a children's street party hope to set a record for the best attended knees-up to celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Banbury Town Council has invited representatives from the *Guinness Book of Records* to the event – on Sunday, June 3.

A thousand tickets have been set aside for children, who will be able to bring their families to Market Place, Banbury, from 1.30pm.

Organisers hope it will be the biggest-ever Royal Jubilee street party.

Free tickets are available to youngsters, aged three to 11, at the Town Hall in Bridge Street.

Banbury MP Tony Baldry said: "For the rest of their lives, children who attend will be able to look at the record books and say 'I was there'."

He added: "Record or not, the jubilee and the party will be something that the children will remember for a long time – just as their grandparents remember the Coronation."

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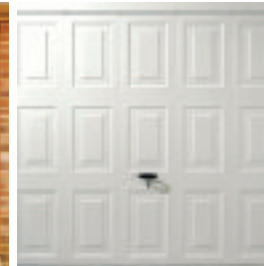
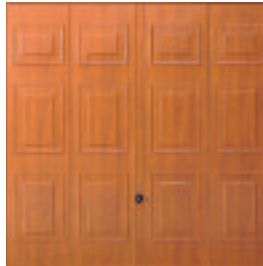
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■ Jessica's idea of promoting cycling safety tips to go on 1,000 lorries



Tony Baldry MP is giving his support to the national 'InTANDEM' competition, set up by Jessica Friend, right. The gorilla is the competition's mascot

Contest for a sticker slogan

By Oliver Evans

CYCLING around Oxfordshire, Jessica Friend knows first hand the dangers faced from lorries.

So the 22-year-old has hit on an idea that she hopes will keep her two-wheeled friends safe on the UK's roads.

The organisation behind the *How's My Driving?* signs is backing her bid to come up with a lorry sticker to warn cyclists against undertaking.

Miss Friend has launched a competition to find an eye-catching design to go on more than 1,000 lorries nationwide.

She said: "Some cyclists pull alongside a large vehicle and think they ride off faster than a bus.

"I'm not the most confident of cyclists. I cycle along routes where there is lots of

space for you, but as soon as I get to a roundabout or junction, I dismount."

The signs would educate cyclists but also make drivers more aware of the dangers, she said.

She was inspired to act after an uncle of hers was knocked off his bike after being clipped by a lorry, leaving him with minor injuries.

The Sibford Ferris resident said: "I think it is really important, especially in Oxfordshire, with its cycling culture.

"It is not just an issue for London. It is really key in places like Oxford and Cambridge."

Ross Smith, director at *How's My Driving?* said he was delighted to help after being contacted by the former University of East Anglia student.

He said: "When you are on a bike you don't have a lot of

time to read a notice, so we are hoping people will come up with an eye-catching design or slogan."

The social enterprise is part of the competition and has four national haulage firms signed up to take the winning design.

He said: "Cyclists are the only category of road user where deaths have increased in the last two years. We want to do something about that."

Banbury MP Tony Baldry launched the *InTANDEM* competition with the help of its mascot, Gus, the Gorilla.

The MP said: "Road safety is an important issue, not just in urban areas, but also in rural areas such as those surrounding Banbury.

"All road users, whether they are cyclists or drivers, must learn to give each other enough space."

To enter visit intandemcompetition.com. The closing date is Monday.

InBRIEF

House prices on the rise

■ House prices in Oxfordshire have shown their biggest monthly rise in two years, latest figures have revealed.

Statistics produced by the Government's Land Registry show the average price of a property in the county in February was £238,620, up one per cent on the previous month.

The last time prices rose by one per cent was in February, 2010.

The value of the average Oxfordshire home is now 1.8 per cent more than it was at the same time last year.

Co-op plan charity days

■ A "give at the till" weekend event for Women's Aid will be hosted by Co-operative shops in Oxfordshire this weekend. Customers will be asked to donate their change, add a donation to their bill or give £3 by text.

A Betty Jackson-designed Women's Aid shopping bag will be on sale to raise further funds for the charity, which works to stop domestic violence against women and children.

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■ Campaigners face three-month wait to see if appeal is successful

Judicial review bid to block HS2 railway line



Martin Tett, the chairman of 51M

By Samantha McGregor

CAMPAIGNERS will hear within three months if a legal bid to stop the controversial £33bn HS2 rail link has been approved.

Group 51M, made up of councils up and down the line, is seeking permission to launch a judicial review over a Government decision to give the green light to the proposals in January.

The 225mph trains would run between London and Birmingham, skirting villages in north Oxfordshire including Finmere and Mixbury.

But 51M says the Government failed to

consult people, the decision was based on inadequate environmental information and raised concerns over the impact on London's Euston station.

The appeal was launched earlier this month and a decision whether the group can press forward with a judicial review is expected by the end of June.

Martin Tett, 51M chairman and leader of Buckinghamshire County Council, said: "They effectively excluded over half those affected by the proposal from participating in the consultation.

"Worse still it is clear that there is a much cheaper and more efficient alternative.

"We have clear legal advice that there is

a substantial case to be made against the Government for the cavalier way they took this decision."

Cherwell District Council, a member of 51M, has so far contributed £50,000 to the fight against HS2.

A Department for Transport spokesman said Network Rail predicted the West Coast main line would be full by the mid-2020s and building a new line was the best option.

He said: "We believe we have struck the right balance between the reasonable concerns of people living near the line, who will be offered compensation, the environment, and the need to keep Britain moving."

InBRIEF

Guilty verdict over child sex

■ A 57-year-old man been convicted of engaging in sexual activity with a child.

Michael Webb, of Prescott Close, Banbury, was convicted by a majority of ten jurors to two at Oxford Crown Court on Wednesday of last week. The incident took place last October.

Webb, who was jailed in 1992 for indecent assault on another girl, was bailed to be sentenced on May 11. He was also made to sign the sex offender register.

Charity cash

■ Customers at Leeds Building Society in High Street, Banbury, raised £1,300 for Marie Curie Cancer Care through buying daffodils.

Labour anger at NHS shake-up redundancy pay-out costs

REUNDANCY costs totalling £170,000 have been paid out in Oxfordshire as part of a controversial shake-up of the NHS, according to the Labour party.

Government figures obtained by the party show the cash was paid as part of changes to give GPs, instead of primary care trust managers, control over budgets.

Labour said "many" of the former

PCT staff who picked up redundancy pay-out could now be re-employed to support family doctors in new clinical commissioning groups.

Oxfordshire MP Andrew Smith said: "This is only the first wave of redundancies. More are expected later this year and next, as part of the Government's reckless NHS reorganisation.

"By pushing ahead with a

reorganisation no-one wants, they are taking billions of pounds away from the NHS front-line service.

"They will never be trusted on the NHS again."

Department of Health spokesman Ros Selby: "The short-term costs are dwarfed by the £4.5bn we will save over the course of this Parliament and £1.5bn every year after that."

The redundancy figures were

obtained through a Parliamentary question by shadow health secretary Andy Burnham.

The party also said PCTs had to put aside two per cent of recruitment cash for the reorganisation. This equates to £35m in Oxfordshire.

But NHS Oxfordshire, the county's PCT, said it had put aside £17.9m. It was unable to comment on redundancy figures.

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■ Butterfly experts in plea for sightings as warm spring rekindles dying species

The return of the rare

By Andrew Ffrench

RARE butterfly species are winging their way back to Oxfordshire because of last year's warm spring.

Butterfly experts say the conditions last spring were perfect for the insects, which emerged weeks earlier than normal, as they appealed for people in Oxfordshire to help monitor species this year.

Data collected by the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme rises for a

number of species that have declined in recent years. Scientists are hoping there will be similar increases this year, following hot weather in March.

Volunteers have been collecting data from about 1,000 sites across the UK and ecologist Dr Marc Botham, from the Oxfordshire-based Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, said people should look out for some scarce species in Oxfordshire.

His love of butterflies started when he netted them as a boy. He said: "Increasingly warm spring

weather in recent years has really benefited a number of scarce species.

"Volunteers have worked hard to improve the condition of current habitats by cutting back woodland to create open areas where violets and other plants can grow.

"The more information we get from the public, the more steps we will be able to take to help protect rare species.

"The hot weather in March will have helped, but it could be quite cold in April and May, so that could set the spring butterflies back

a bit," Dr Botham added that people can look out for the Grizzled Skipper throughout Oxfordshire at sites including Aston Rowant and Aston Upthorpe Downs, and the Dingy Skipper at sites including Swyncombe Downs in the Chilterns.

He said: "Both are localised, scarce species that have shown significant long-term declines – but had a superb year in 2011."

Dr Botham added: "The Silver-Spotted Skipper is worth looking out for on any chalk grassland with short-grazed turf."

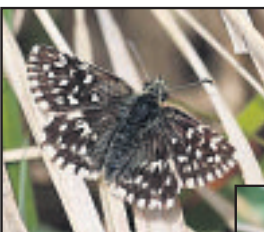
According to Butterfly Conservation, which is working with the CEH on gathering data for the monitoring scheme, the dry weather has provided "perfect conditions for spring specialists, enabling them to benefit from extended flight periods".

Butterfly Conservation head of monitoring Dr Tom Bretherton said: "The great spring weather provided respite for our beleaguered butterflies but wide-ranging conservation efforts are needed to reverse long-term declines."

For further information about the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme visit ukbms.org



Dr Marc Botham with an emperor moth OX51535



● **BELOW:** Silver-spotted Skipper: Seen in July and August nectaring on wild flowers

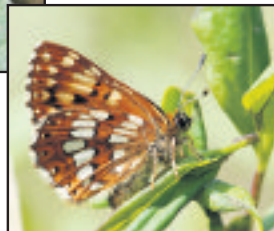


● **BELOW:** Duke of Burgundy: a woodland butterfly that is often found on primrose or cowslip flowers



● **ABOVE:** Grizzled Skipper: Favours sunny areas and plants including wild strawberry and creeping cinquefoil

● **ABOVE:** Dingy Skipper: Spotted on downlands where it feeds on wild flowers



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CakeLeisure

banburycake.co.uk/leisure

Ding Dong rings the changes

Global warfare. A country poised to dip into another recession. Drought. The world doesn't exactly feel as if it's got a funny bone at the moment.

So how about a frothy, fast, farcical French fancy – with frolics and plenty of... oooh la la? It might be just cheer you up – and that's the unusual

By Liz Nicholls

offering of Banbury Cross Players' latest production about to hit the Mill – *Ding Dong*.

"Unfortunately, with the name, everyone thinks of Lesley Phillips," says Trish Thompson, director of *Ding Dong*. "It's nothing to do with him!"

"The original name of the play

is *Sexe et Jalousie* and I think that sums it up much better – it's got lots of sex, lots of jealousy at a fantastic, frenetic pace.

"And it's funny – I think we could all definitely do with a laugh at the moment!"

Ding Dong is based on the play by Marc Camoletti, adapted for English use by Tudor Gates, centred in an awkward dinner party. The plot is a hoot, with enough comings and goings and extra-marital tangles to have Shakespeare in a spin.

And Trish says the cast have had great fun nailing the comedy.

"The timing is everything – it has to rattle along like lightning to work," she says.

"The first challenge was for everyone to learn the lines super-quickly – no mean feat for the two males leads who have pages and pages of them and have to attack so that they can deliver them 'boom-boom-boom'.

"They dealt with this really well and were 'books-down' early on. Then we could get on with the business of honing the acting.

"And I've been a stickler on timing. The play has two acts, two scenes in each, and during rehearsals. I'm there with a timer saying 'right, we have to shave five minutes off this one!'"

Some familiar BCP faces are of course enlisted in bringing the intimate drama to life – including Marilyn Fairbairn as Marie-Louise the maid (not a clichéd French maid, Trish is keen to point out) acting as comic Lynchpin.

But the play has a refreshingly new feel about it – not only because of the material but also because the troupe have recruited four new actors into the fray. Debut BCP performances come from Tim Manning, Jennifer Wyatt, Andy Crump as the young, debonair Robert and budding actor Jenna Lloyd who has had a baptism of fire, joining to play a callgirl masquerading as the lead's

wife. "As a director, it's been a special joy to have fresh blood and the girls especially, including Rachel [Sullivan, who starred in *Wyrd Sisters* last year] have brought youth to the team.

"It's great for our audience because often certain faces will ring bells from playing characters in past productions. With this, we're spreading our net a bit wider and might attract newcomers."

After the success of Trish's country set for *The Garden Party*, the team have been dousing the stage in the Parisian chic for *Ding Dong* and getting dolled up to promote the show. And, as ever, the family spirit of the Players is helping everyone bond.

"I can't stress how involved everyone has been," adds Trish "and it really has been a team effort. Everyone's gelled so well and it's not a case of me calling the shots.

"There is always a lovely family feel to our productions and because we've had fun creating it, it should be huge fun to watch."

■ *Ding Dong* is at the Mill Theatre, Spicehall Park, Banbury, May 2–5 with curtain-up at 7.45pm. Call the box office on 01295 279002 or book online at www.themillartscentre.co.uk.



FRENCH FANCY: Barbara (Jenna Lloyd), Robert (Andy Crump), Bernard (Tim Manning), Juliette (Jennifer Wyatt), Jacqueline (Rachel Sullivan) and Marie-Louise (Marilyn Fairbairn) Picture: Alan Davies

Music from past and present

■ STILL best known for classic *Stranger On The Shore* (which stayed in the UK charts for more than 52 weeks), Acker Bilk is a true jazz legend. Which is why excitement is building for his show at The Stables, in Wavendon, tonight (Thursday). The Milton Keynes show follows the 50th anniversary of the hit, which also topped the charts in the USA, Australia and is still played all over the world. The gig features Acker, now in his 80s, and his Paramount Jazz Band. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets £20. Visit stables.org or call 01908 280 800.

■ THE same venue plays host to a different, but similarly long-lasting bunch of artists tomorrow (Friday). In a career now spanning five decades, The Searchers have delighted audiences with classic hits *Sweets For My Sweet*, *Needles And Pins*, *Don't Throw Your Love Away*, and *When You Walk In The Room*. And, believe it



NORTH Cotswold Chamber Choir

or not, they are still going strong. Their gig at The Stables will see them mix up the hits with anecdotes and reminiscences, B-sides and other favourites. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets £24 from stables.org or call 01908 280 800.

■ North Cotswold Chamber Choir will perform an evening of choral and instrumental splendour on Saturday (April 28) at 7.30pm at St Peter's Church, Hook Norton. His Majestys Sagbutts and Cornetts offer music by Gabrieli and Bruckner with Sarah-Tenant

Flowers, principal conductor, returning to lead the ensemble. Tickets are £15 (£12 concs, £5 18s and under. Call 01608 641033.

■ DON your leather trousers and grab that air guitar! The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury will bounce to the sound of legendary rock act Led Zeppelin, tomorrow (Friday), courtesy of the ultimate tribute to the music of Jimmy Page and Robert Plant. Whole Lotta Led will bash out the band's classics from the golden era of the 1970s, with *Whole Lotta Love*, *Stairway To Heaven* and *Immigrant Song* – as well as some acoustic Zeppelin. The band, who have been given the seal of approval by guitarist Page, also enjoy the accolade of being recommended as one of the UK's top tribute bands by *Classic Rock* magazine. Doors open at 8.30pm. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the door. Go to themillartscentre.co.uk or call 01295 279002.

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"Just a short note to say I am extremely pleased with my back page advert this week in the Banbury Cake! Thank you"

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"Gymphobics have been advertising with the Banbury Cake for a couple of years now and have always seen an increase in enquiries and membership bookings following a campaign. This January we ran a series of full pages and a four page wrap with the Cake and had the best January uptake we have seen in years – we are delighted! This proves we spent our marketing funds well and would recommend other local businesses looking for an increase in sales or bookings to contact the team at the Banbury Cake."

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Heroes team up for action-packed romp

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE (12A, 147 mins) Sci-Fi/Action/Comedy. Robert Downey Jr, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Chris Evans, Jeremy Renner, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L Jackson, Cobie Smulders, Clark Gregg, Stellan Skarsgard, Gwyneth Paltrow. Director: Joss Whedon.

More is less in *Avengers Assemble*, the special effects-laden amalgamation of four *Marvel Comics* franchises.

Bringing together characters from *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *Captain America* and *The Incredible Hulk*, Joss Whedon's frenetic romp deftly knits together plot strands from the earlier films, threaded with tongue-in-cheek humour.

There's a clear presumption that audiences will have seen the pictures that inspire this battle royale, accounting for a paucity of fresh character development, which undermines the relationship between the two heroes without a franchise.

However, while psychological substance may be thin, exhilarating action-packed sequences abound, choreographed at breakneck pace by writer-director Whedon, who knows how to seamlessly meld live action with digital trickery for maximum impact.

Interestingly, he keeps the Avengers disjointed for most of the film, only bringing everyone together in the same location for the protracted final showdown to decide mankind's fate – and the likelihood of a sequel.

Thor's evil brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) plots to exterminate mankind by harnessing the power of the pulsating Tesseract cube.



Teaming up to take on a super-villain – a scene from *Avengers Assemble*

Aided by an army of aliens, Loki steals the artefact from the subterranean HQ of the international peacekeeping agency and enslaves scientist Selvig (Stellan Skarsgard) and ace marksman Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) to do his nefarious bidding.

"As of now, we are at war," declares Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson), director of S.H.I.E.L.D, to the dismay of fellow agents Maria Hill (Cobie Smulders) and Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg).

Desperate times call for innovative measures and Fury scours the globe for the ultimate team of superheroes, uniting the

inflated egos and rippling muscles of *Iron Man* (Robert Downey Jr), *The Incredible Hulk* (Mark Ruffalo), *Thor* (Chris Hemsworth), *Captain America* (Chris Evans) and *Black Widow* (Scarlett Johansson).

Avengers Assemble doesn't quite scale the dizzy heights of the original *Iron Man* but for almost two and a half hours, we're entertained and energised by Whedon's distinctive vision of the *Marvel* universe.

Since the cast and script don't take anything too seriously, nor do we, simply sit back and "marvel" at the outrageously overblown special effects.



Win tickets

JUST so you feel like you really are at the movies, the *Banbury Cake* and Odeon Cinema Banbury have teamed up to offer you the chance to catch up on the latest action blockbusters, sci-fi epics and family favourites.

Yes, every week in the *Banbury Cake* we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies.

And this week, we're offering a pair of tickets to see *Avengers Assemble*, or any other film, showing at the Odeon cinema in Horse Fair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

■ Who is the director of *Avengers Assemble*?

a. Mark Ruffalo?

b. Jeremy Renner?

c. Joss Whedon?

Email your answer to jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next Monday.

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Newsquest rules apply. The editor's decision is final.



CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: GF Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Tony Casper. 9pm. £1. 01295 252852.

The Wheatsheaf, George Street, Banbury: Deliverance with I Cried Wolf, Blood Loss and Hopeless Potential. From 8pm. 01295 266525.

SATURDAY: Barley Mow, Warwick Road, Banbury: Resurrection. Rock covers duo, free. 9pm. 01295 269758.

GF Social Club, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury: Curvy Love Dogz. 9pm. £1. 01295 252852.

Social Club, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney: Pete Campbell. 7.15pm. £4, members £2. 01295 721220.

St Peter and St Paul, Market Square, Deddington: Piano Recital in aid of St Mary's Warkworth, the victim of lead theft.

7.30pm. £15, concession £10. 01295 710515.

Sun Inn, High Street, Hook Norton: Cody, free admission. 9pm. 01608737570.

SUNDAY: Social Club, Astrop Road, Middleton Cheney: Tequila. 7.15pm. £4, members £2. 01295 721220.

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: The Pirates! In An Adventure With Scientists, U, Sat 10.15am; (3-D) Sat-Sun 12.15pm. Salmon Fishing In The Yemen, 12A, Wed 11am, daily 2.15pm, Fri-Tue 9pm (audio-described). Titanic, 12A (3-D) daily 4.45pm* (audio-described). Marvel Avengers Assemble, 12A (3-D) daily 1.50, 5.10, 8.30pm* (audio-described). American Pie - Reunion, 15, Wed-Thu 9pm. Senior screen: Warhorse, 12A, Wed starts 11am*, ends 1.31pm.

Odeon Kids: Johnny English Reborn, PG, Sat 11am, ends 12.51pm. (NB: cinema may refuse admission to guests arriving after the feature has started.) Box office: 0871 224 4007.

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Apr 26, *Great Expectations*. Adaptation by Adrian Preater. £10, concession £8. 7.30pm. Apr 27, *Whole Lotta Led*. 8.30pm. £10 adv, £12 at the door. May 2-5, *Ding Dong*. Presented by Banbury Cross Players. 7.45pm. £7.50, £8.50. Box office: 01295 279002

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Apr 26-28, *Anything Goes*. Performed by CHAOS. 7.30pm, Saturday matinee 2.30pm. Box office: 01608 642350.



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Evo-Stik Southern League

Into the safety zone

Banbury Utd 1
(Johnson 53)
Leamington 1
(Steele 38)

BANBURY all but secured their future in the Premier Division with a draw in a much-improved performance against Leamington on Saturday.

The Puritans need just another point at basement club Cirencester Town next Saturday to make them mathematically certain of avoiding relegation.

Although, they could be safe anyway if Hemel Hempstead fail to beat Oxford City. Banbury's goal difference is vastly superior to that of their fellow strugglers.

The home side should really look upon this result as two points lost rather than one gained, as they were the better side for most of the contest.

Banbury looked the sharper side, but an early chance that fell to Danny Edmond was

saved by Nathan Vaughan in the Brakes' goalmouth

Leamington looked dangerous on the break, and striker Jacob Blyth headed a good chance straight into Banbury keeper Andy Kemp's hands.

Banbury's defence let them down in the 38th minute when former Oxford United striker Lee Steele ghosted in un-noticed at the far post to fire Leamington ahead.

Banbury levelled in the 53rd minute after substitute Dior Angus won a corner. From Ben Polk's flag-kick, Ricky Johnson glanced his near-post header into the opposite corner.

While Banbury dominated the second-half, both keepers sured there were no more goals, while Josh Cole was outstanding for Banbury.

Banbury Utd: Kemp, Coleman, Kinch, Dolman, Thackeray, Howell, Edmond (Angus 46), Cole, Johnson, Blake (Forinton 90+3), Polk. Subs not used: Richardson, Eyre, Kingston.

Attendance: 564.



Ricky Johnson (far right) glances in Banbury's equaliser against Leamington from Ben Polk's corner

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

It appears to be up to you to seek your own entertainment and this is a good time to start some new form of relaxation or stimulation. Unexpected visitors are forecast who, although they may not come at the perfect time, will come with some news which you will be pleased and relieved to hear. Fellow Aries share your humour if you want to share 'that' secret. Call now to delve deeper into your stars.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Venus, your ruling planet, has big plans for you this week. You're in for quite a revelation as you start to be more honest with yourself about what you want and need from a partner. Financial pressures appear to be particularly heavy just now and you will have to budget carefully for an upcoming event or trip. Ring me now so I can tell you why your future has a foreign flavour.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

New faces appear to play a more important role in your week. You appear to be under some nervous strain and tend to let trivial irritations get on top of you. Try to get your priorities right and make the most of your opportunities to relax and enjoy yourself. After all, if you don't think you're worth the time, why should anyone else? Phone now to make sense of last week's dramatics.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Some sort of a change is indicated in the life of someone close to you which has a knock on effect on your own day to day routine. Make sure that you are in charge of shaping what you do or not do to Scorpio. If you don't do it this week you may never get the chance. Business meetings arranged for Friday prove highly successful. Call me now to hear a message from Uranus especially for you.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

A lot of friction is apparent with someone in your surroundings and it would be best if you could avoid them completely for a while. Health wise you may be feeling a little below par and a little more time spent on doing what feels right is sure to have a positive effect. Give me a ring now for a romantic revelation.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Make a special effort to participate in the activities around you even though you may not feel like it as you could be missing out on a lot by being lethargic. An important event which takes place this week takes your emotions to a whole new level and we see you growing and evolving as a person because of it. Ring me now to find out who is not being entirely truthful with you this week.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Your impatience to get things done could cause you to make a mistake or forget something important, so think things through properly before you act. A great deal seems to be happening on the social scene this week and you may have some difficulty getting everything done. You meet someone who gives you reason to want to excel after Thursday. Call now for details.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Lots of travel is written in your stars but don't worry Capricorn, as you're sure to benefit every time from any trips you make on both a personal and a professional basis. Careful not to take your work home with you on Friday though when events will demand you pay attention to every word a certain person will have to say. Phone me now to hear why I'm so happy about your future.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Things may not go according to plan this week and you may have to change your way of thinking and adopt new methods. Keep an open mind and don't be afraid to make changes. It's not as if you haven't been in the situation to see the cracks. Some sort of parting is indicated which may leave you at a bit of a loose end. New attractions beckon from Friday. Call now for the details.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Your family are never easy to deal with and that is because you make them appear difficult Aquarius. If you didn't keep telling them silly white lies then they would have no reason to doubt you. Why not try turning over a new leaf from here on in. They can't like what you do any more or less but they can respect you more as a person. Ring me now to delve deeper into your destiny.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Your social life appears to brighten up considerably and you will be coming into contact with some really interesting people. Affairs of the heart are especially favoured this week. You should be feeling particularly energetic and healthy and can get a lot of work done, if you put your mind to it. Give me a ring now to hear why your maternal side may soon be coming to the fore.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Certain people in your life are becoming a source of great annoyance and you may find it hard to put the required distance between yourselves before Thursday. Grin and bear it and show those around you how tolerant you are. You'll feel a bigger and better person if you do, my friend. Give me a call now to hear why it's imperative you turn up to all birthday or party invites this week.

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CakeProperty

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Cottages to a country house

By Gill Oliver

A GRADE-II listed Hornton stone and thatched cottage in Wroxton is available to let.

Mullions includes three bedrooms, two reception rooms with an inglenook fireplace, a wood-burning stove, parquet wood flooring, stone mullion windows and exposed beams.

It is available from June 10, unfurnished, for £1,295 pcm.

Paradise, in Lower Boddington, is a detached period farmhouse in half-an-acre of grounds, available to let for £1,450 pcm.

It has four bedrooms, three reception rooms, an inglenook fireplace with wood burner, Aga and double garage.

For more information, or to arrange a viewing of either property, contact Finders Keepers' Banbury office on 01295 276766.

Another period rental is an apartment in a grand country house set in five acres.

Cotmore House, in Fringford, was built around 1860 and still has many period features including high ceilings, curved staircases and carved stonework.

The two double-bedroomed first-floor flat comes with plenty

of parking space and easy transport links to the M40, A34 and Bicester North train station.

The property includes an ensuite bathroom to the master bedroom, separate family bathroom and space for a dining table in the kitchen.

Residents in the flat have full access to the grounds, which are a mixture of lawns and walkways.

The Cotmore House flat is available to let from the end of this month, unfurnished, at £925 per month.

Contact Finders Keepers' Bicester office on 01869 329530 or visit www.finders.co.uk



Part of Cotmore House, Fringford, is available to rent for £925 a month



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£249,950

Trinity Close

• Good size chalet bungalow offers:- Entrance hall, bathroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, dining room,

master bedroom with dressing area, attic bedroom with ample storage, garage and driveway, enclosed rear garden



New

New

£184,950

Neithrop Avenue

• Three bedroom home located within easy reach of the town centre, entrance hall, good size lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, off road parking, double glazing, gas central heating, No chain



NEW PRICE

NEW PRICE

£180,000

Springfield Ave

• Well presented three bedroom family home offers entrance hall, ground floor w.c., lounge, fitted kitchen/dinner, 1st floor

bedroom, two double bedrooms, one single, good size rear garden and off road parking. Viewing highly recommended.



NO CHAIN

NEW

£179,950

Ashmead Road

• A delightful Two bedroom property offers:- downstairs cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner with built in appliances, two double bedrooms master with ensuite shower, main bathroom, good size garden with garage and parking NO CHAIN



NO CHAIN

New Price

£99,950

Calthorpe Street

• One bedroom studio apartment Kitchen area with appliances Lounge Bedroom with en suite shower room Town centre Electric heating ideal for investment or first time buyer



NEW

NEW

£129,000

Waltham Gardens

• A well presented one bedroom home offers:- Lounge, Kitchen, double

bedroom, main bathroom, front garden ideal for investment or first time buyer.



£139,950

Lennox Gardens

• Three bedroom home comprises of:- porch entrance hall, lounge, kitchen breakfast room, utility area,

two family bathrooms, three good size bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed off road parking.



NO CHAIN

£152,950

Sussex Drive

• This Three bedroom Mid terraced family home offers lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, Rear garden and parking, double glazed and gas central heating. Popular area close to shops, schools and a bus route.



£159,500

Hastings Road

• This good size three bedroom family home set on a corner plot offers:- Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Main

bedroom with separate W.C., Low maintenance rear garden, good size front garden with garage and driveway.



NEW PRICE

NEW PRICE

£105,000

Settler House

• This ground floor one bedroom flat offers:- Re fitted bathroom/fitted kitchen/Single garage/No

Chain/All electric close to the town centre M40 and Train station ideal for investment or first time buyer.



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Class act proves instant winner

By David Duffy

There is more than a touch of theatre when you settle into the driver's seat of Hyundai's stylish entry to the family estate car market. Touch-of-button entry to the car is swiftly followed by an electrically-controlled driver's seat that whisks you forward into your pre-set position.

LED projector lamps illuminate the interior and a dashboard display welcomes you aboard while you prepare for the push-button engine start.

That sort of show alone is enough to demonstrate that this is a Hyundai like no other we have seen. With prices starting at more than £18,000, the i40 is a sign of the confident progress Hyundai has made in recent years.

But the bells and whistles that adorn for this spacious, high-quality newcomer, are more than matched by good old-fashioned practicality.

First and foremost, the i40 Tourer is a big car, with a spacious, high-quality interior. Cargo capacity more than matches its competitors and loading and unloading is also made easy by the lowest floor level in its segment.

Sleek and elegant with doors that clunk shut with a reassuring thud, the i40 rides smoothly, and thanks to

nicely-weighted steering it handles with real precision.

But it really comes to life as a motorway cruiser; solid, relaxing and unruffled, it soaks up miles with ease. The i40 Tourer comes in three trim levels — Active, Style and Premium — with the choice of three engines, four power outputs and manual or automatic transmission.

In a segment where diesel models represent 77 per cent of total sales, Hyundai is anticipating that the 'high-power' version of the 1.7-litre diesel unit, developing 136 horsepower, will be the most popular engine among both private and fleet buyers. It also comes with the lowest benefit in kind cost in its class, a further attraction to company car drivers. Small wonder that it held off well-established rivals to take the overall title of best estate car in *Business Car Manager's* annual awards, above rivals such as the



SHOW STOPPER: The i40 Tourer comes to life as a motorway cruiser where it soaks up the miles with ease

Auto facts

Model: Hyundai i40 Tourer 1.7 CRDi Premium
Price: £25,895
Ins group: 17 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 47.1mpg
Top speed: 118mph
Length: 477cm/187.8in
Width: 181.5cm/71.4in
Luggage space: 19.5 cu ft
Fuel capacity: 15.4 gallons/70 litres
CO2 emissions: 159g/km
Warranty: 5 years/unlimited mileage

Ford Mondeo Estate, Volvo V50 DRIVE and the Skoda Octavia Estate.

There is the choice of three option packages, which include lane departure warning and smart parking assist, heated steering wheel, ventilated front seats and heated rear seats and xenon, follow-the-road headlights.

Designed and engineered at the company's base in Germany, and made in Korea, with a long warranty, this is a big car that is well placed to upstage the opposition.

Usedcarscene

Skoda tops ownership satisfaction table again

SKODA has dominated the 2012 *Auto Express* Driver Power car ownership survey with its Yeti SUV in top spot, the Superb family car second and the Octavia in fourth.

This is the second year running that Skoda has topped Driver Power with this year's rankings a reverse of last year, when the Superb came first and the Yeti second.

Steve Fowler, editor-in-chief of *Auto Express*, said: "Skoda clearly knows a thing or two about keeping its customers happy.

"It builds cars people love, while its dealers do all they can to please

owners. Skoda's advertising says that it's the manufacturer of happy drivers — this year's Driver Power survey shows it's right."

New for this year's Driver Power survey was a technology category, asking car buyers to rate the quality of their in-car gadgets.

British-built Nissans dominated the top of the tech chart with the Juke in first place and the Qashqai in fourth.

There was more good news for British car-makers with the Jaguar XF continuing its strong run in Driver Power with a fifth place this year. Last year, the

Jaguar XF was named the most successful car in 10 years of Driver Power surveys.

Skoda has confirmed that the prices for the new Citigo city car, on sale in June, will undercut both of its sister models, the SEAT Mii and the Volkswagen Up.

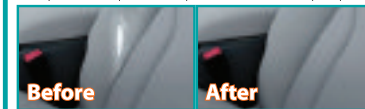
At £7,630 for the cheapest three-door version, the Citigo S is £215 cheaper than the equivalent SEAT Mii and £365 cheaper than the basic Volkswagen up!

The Citigo will also be available as a five-door in any of the three trim levels for a premium of £350. The mid-range SE will probably be the biggest seller.

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Wheelsanddeals

■ NISSAN dealer Antelope of Banbury, in Swan Close Road, will be hosting a CARED4 Win-Win Used Car Event from April 26-29, to celebrate Nissan Qashqai's recent award-winning success. Amongst other accolades, the crossover vehicle has recently been voted 'Used Car of the Year' by used car pricing experts CAP — for the second year in a row. The model was also awarded the *What Car?* magazine overall used car of the year 2011 title, based on its looks, price and abilities. Anyone who buys a CARED4 vehicle during the event will receive a complimentary Virgin Experience Day.

■ FORD is claiming that one version of its latest Focus hatchback more than offsets the vast increases in fuel prices over the last few years, costing less to fuel per mile travelled than the equivalent model four years ago. Despite a 34 per cent rise in fuel prices since 2008, Ford is claiming that its new 1.0-litre, 99bhp EcoBoost petrol engine sees motorists paying less out in fuel than they did back then.

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* Source: Continental Research 2008; 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements.

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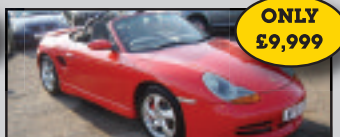
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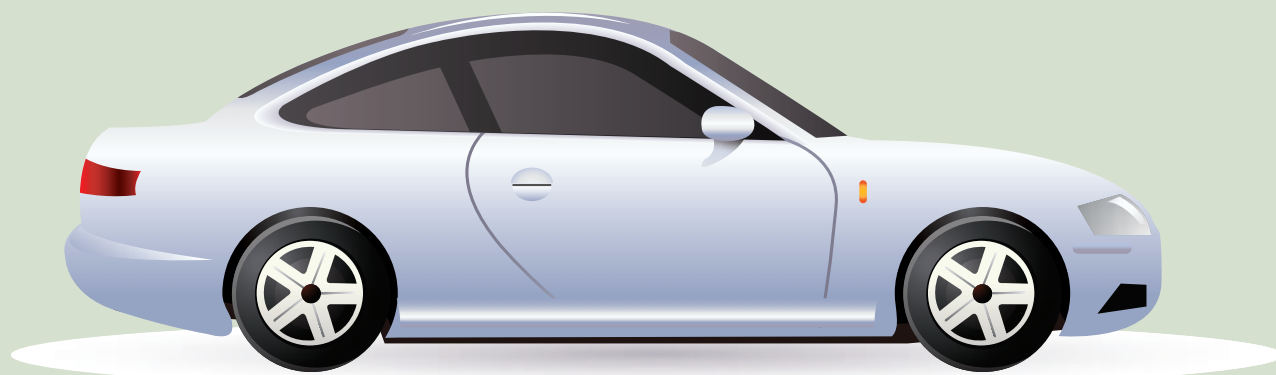
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HONDA GOLDWING



Aspenade, 1986, long MOT and taxed, only 45,000 miles, new battery, runs well and in very good condition for year.

Tel: 07976 535030 or 01249 448253

£3250

Piaggio Zip

PIAGGIO ZIP

Piaggio Zip Scooter, 49cc, 4-stroke, 10 months MOT, 08 reg, silver colour, excellent condition, 2330 miles

07751 277246

£550 ovno

Motors Wanted



Tel: 07963 777762

Bargain Cars

Renault

RENAULT CLIO 1.2

P Reg
Mot and Tax
2 Owners
Immaculate Condition

01295 268011

£650 ono

Toyota

TOYOTA CELICA 2003



03 Plate

New Shape, 1.8 Sport VVTi, Silver, Full Leather Interior, 6mths Tax, 12mths Mot, Air Con, Alloys, Service History, VGC Inside & Out

07401 556255

£2,600 ono

SELL YOUR CAR
BOOKING IS EASY
Tel: 01865 420420
Online: oxfordmail.co.uk/advertise

ALFA ROMEO

ALFA ROMEO 156



Black-2004-1. 6, 1598cc, Petrol, MOT-April13, Tax-Sept 12, Leather Interior, V. G. C., Alloy, A/C, Cambelt+Starter motor fitted, 33,000 miles

07901636982

£2,950

Audi

AUDI A3 1.8T

Quattro Sports V Reg. 1999. FSH, 6 months Tax, 7 months MOT. Evenings after 6.30

Tel: 01793 480064

£1,700 ono

Bessacarr

BESSACARR E605



2. 8 diesel Fiat Ducato m/home. 2000 reg. 4 berth, rear washroom. kitchen, lots storage space. a/con, awning/safari room, alarm. Excellent condition. 28,000 miles

01993891525

£17,995

BMW

BMW 320i SE

2001, 12 mths MOT, 6 mths tax, 130k miles, good condition, black with black wheels, air con, heated front & back windows, cruise & traction control, multi function sports steering wheel

07577 785279

£2000 ono

Chevrolet

CHEVROLET KALOS

55 reg, 1.2 SE, met blue, petrol, 5dr, A/C, C/D, Mot & Tax end Sept, 30k miles, Immaculate, reliable, cheap to run.

07565 956087 Devizes

£1900

Chrysler

CHRYSLER VOYAGER



Metallic Grey, 2006, 2770cc, Automatic, Diesel, Alarm, Immobiliser, Alloys, CD, Climate Control, Front fogs, MoT June. Lovely Family Car! 107,000 miles

07852 969708

£4,500

CITROEN

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO



Metalic Pale Blue, 2005, 1560cc, Diesel, AirCon, CD, 50+ mpg, 1 owner, 12mo MOT. Tow bar. Great family car. 90,000 miles

01235772906

£2,400

CITROEN SAXO FURIO 1.4



2000,

Silver 3dr, like VTR/VTS Alloys, 76824 miles, E/W, P/S, Central Locking, Sunroof, Brand New Mot and Serviced

07710 247062

£1,075 ovno

Citroen

CITROEN SAXO

1999, Clean, Reliable, Economical, sun roof, cd player, 12 months mot

Tel: 07780002420

£695

Fiat

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1.2



5 door, 2003, under 47000 miles, dark metallic grey, 5 speed, service history, lovely condition inside & out, tax until May, MOT until Nov

07427 633011

£1,295

FIAT SEICENTO



Blue, 2001, 1108cc, power steering, petrol, CD and MP3, speakers, low mileage, taxed and MOT til August 2012, ideal first car, 63000 miles

01373 823730

£650

Ford

FORD FIESTA



2001, green, 1.2 petrol, manual, MOT & tax 6 months, dealer service history, air con, CD player, e/windows, c/locking, PAS, very cheap & good condition

07885 757722

£975 ono

FORD

FORD FIESTA FLIGHT

1. 8 Diesel 1997 P Reg. Red. Manual 5 door central locking MOT+serviced in January. Bicester, 79,000 miles

07787103412

£400

FORD FOCUS 1800



2002

TDCI Diesel Turbo, 5dr, Blue Metallic, Alloys, New Cambelt, New Clutch/Flywheel, FSH, Mot & taxed, Two owners, CD Player

07710 247062 or 01295256014

£1,095.ovno

Ford

FORD FIESTA

1998, S Reg, 3 door, Silver, 12.5, petrol. Tax / Mot, p/s, alloy wheels, 135,000 miles

Tel: 01380 725357

£650.

Honda

HONDA HRV

1999, automatic, 1.6, 4x4, 4 wheel drive, MOT 25th Sept, tax 31st May, 72,000 miles, FSH, good condition, ideal family car, reliable, selling due to having 2 cars

Tel: 07512 437206

£2700 ono

Jaguar

JAGUAR XJ6 AUTO 1989

Classic XJ6 4.0, solent blue metallic, cream leather, piped black, usual Jag extras incl cd player, lovely drive & cheap classic ins, mot & 6 months tax. Please phone for details

01380 738671 or 07901 710129

£695

Lexus

LEXUS GS300

(6 cylinder, 3 litre), 1995, MOT Nov '12, Tax 31st May 2012, low mileage 76,000 (all 14 MOT's to prove), good tyres, reliable, same owner for 12 years.

Tel: 01249 819683

£1500 ono

Mazda

MAZDA MX5

1991, Red, Low mileage, Tax & MOT.

07836 515114 Chippenham

£875

Mercedes

MERCEDES BENZ



E230 Avantgarde. 1997, silver, auto, petrol, 47,342 miles, MOT/TAX July, body/mechanical excellent, one owner from new.

07950 709086

£999 ono

MOTORS

<div>MINI</div> <div>MINI COOPER</div> <div></div> <div>Green, 2005, 1598cc, Petrol, Alloys, CD, C/RL, A/C, 3 door, 5 months MOT & 10 months tax, immaculate bodywork & interior. 25,000 miles</div> <div>07900 545046</div> <div>£6,500</div>	<div>Peugeot</div> <div>PEUGEOT 206 CC CONVERTABLE</div> <div></div> <div>2004, 1600cc Black, Cream White Leather Seats, 48000 miles, Mot & Taxed, Electric Folding Roof, CD Player, P/S, E/W, Air Bags & Air Con (rare), 17" Alloys</div> <div>07710 247062 or 01295 256014</div> <div>£3,095 ovno</div>	<div>Renault</div> <div>RENAULT CLIO</div> <div></div> <div>T Reg 1999, Silver, Great little runaround. MOT Feb 2013. Tax July 2012. Spare Key. 67600 miles</div> <div>07717810164</div> <div>£795</div>	<div>RENAULT MEGANE RT ALIZE</div> <div></div> <div>1.6 petrol, V reg 2000, PAS, E/W, CD, C/RL, sunroof, ABS, air con, cambelt changed 49,738, taxed Aug'12, MOT Sept'12, 69,574 miles</div> <div>07824 512124</div> <div>£675</div>	<div>SMART</div> <div>SMART FORFOUR HATCHBACK</div> <div></div> <div>Grey, 2006, 1124cc, Petrol, manual, A/Con, Alarm, Alloys, CD, C/RL, 97000 miles Good condition FSH, one owner.</div> <div>01993840322</div> <div>£2,000</div>	<div>Vauxhall</div> <div>VAUXHALL ASTRA</div> <div></div> <div>1996, blue, 1.4cc Petrol, Manual, 81,000 miles, Tax Aug, MoT Feb 13, Airbag, C/L, clean tidy car, good condition</div> <div>01865 864728</div> <div>£300</div>	<div>Volkswagen</div> <div>VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT</div> <div></div> <div>1999, 1.8SE, Blue, Petrol, Manual, E/S/R, Zenons, Alloys, Climate/c, e/w &m, remote locking/alarm. Very good condition, 158,400 miles</div> <div>01869320962</div> <div>£950</div>	<div>VOLKSWAGEN POLO</div> <div></div> <div>Silver, 2006, 1.2S64, 5 Door, Petrol, Manual, AirCon, Alloys, CD, FSH, excellent condition, 6 months MOT and Tax. 67,000 miles</div> <div>07767796773</div> <div>£4,000</div>	<div>VOLKSWAGEN TOUAREG</div> <div></div> <div>Blue, 2005, 2460cc, auto, diesel, air con, alarm, alloys, CD, cruise, taxed till Nov, 10 months MOT, FSH, 129,000 miles</div> <div>07846 514355</div> <div>£8,950</div>
<div>Nissan</div> <div>NISSAN PRIMERA</div> <div></div> <div>1999, red, 2.0Cc Engine, 55,000 miles, e/w, e/m, stereo, CD changer, very good condition</div> <div>01865 429188 07943 748636</div> <div>£600</div>	<div>PEUGEOT 306</div> <div></div> <div>Silver, 1999, 1587cc, Petrol, AirCon, Alloys, CD, C/RL. Goes well, very reliable and would make a great 1st car. Bampton area. 110,000 miles</div> <div>07780439784</div> <div>£675</div>	<div>RENAULT CLIO ALIZE</div> <div></div> <div>5 door hatchback, blue, 2001, 1390cc, petrol, C/RL, sun roof, service record, 78,500 miles</div> <div>07940 822861</div> <div>£450</div>	<div>RENAULT MEGANE</div> <div></div> <div>1.6 16V Fidji 5dr, 2002, Silver, 1598Cc, Petrol, Manual, A/C, Airbag, ABS, CD, E/M, E/W, PAS, RC/L, Mot July 12, Tax Sept 12, new Cam Belt & Cat Converter 2011, FSH</div> <div>07900 397857</div> <div>£1200</div>	<div>Toyota</div> <div>TOYOTA MR2, CONVERTIBLE</div> <div></div> <div>Red, 1800cc (2000), petrol taxed April 2012, mot Aug 2012, low mileage, same owner last 8 years</div> <div>Tel: 01249 652097</div> <div>£975.</div>	<div>VAUXHALL ZAFIRA</div> <div></div> <div>Silver, 2005, 2198cc, petrol, air con, alloys, CD, C/RL, passenger airbag, Isofix child seat anchor points, Lumbar support, front elec windows, rear wiper, tow hook, 56000 miles</div> <div>01225 707661</div> <div>£4,500</div>	<div>VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT</div> <div></div> <div>1999 1.8SE Blue, Petrol, Manual, E/S/R, Zenon Headlights, Climate control. Very good condition. High mileage, hence realistic price. 158,000 miles</div> <div>01869 320962</div> <div>£800</div>	<div><div>Your car goes here.</div><div>Local media is used by 46% more people buying a car from a private seller than any other media channel.*</div><div>To find out more go to www.thewantedads.co.uk</div></div>	
<div>Peugeot</div> <div>PEUGEOT 106</div> <div></div> <div>1124cc, cheap road tax, red, new tyres and cam belt, 83,000 miles, 1997, MOT end July '12, reliable car</div> <div>Tel: 07879 771793</div> <div>£450 ono</div>	<div>RENAULT CLIO</div> <div></div> <div>1.2, 2002, black, a/c, 3 door manual, petrol, MOT Jan 2013, Tax July 2012</div> <div>Tel: 07500 664296</div> <div>£1,700 ono</div>	<div>Saab</div> <div>SAAB 9-3 CABRIOLET</div> <div></div> <div>Metallic blue, 2006, cherished since 2007, 1910cc, diesel, air con, alarm, alloys, CD, C/RL, electric roof, full leather, wind shield, service history, 78000 miles</div> <div>01488 684646</div> <div>£6,250</div>	<div>VAUXHALL CORSA</div> <div></div> <div>1.4 Blue. MOT Dec '12, Tax August '12. Clean car. Good driver</div> <div>Tel: 01793 979984</div> <div>£350</div>	<div>SELL YOUR CAR</div> <div>BOOKING IS EASY</div> <div>Tel: 01865 420420</div> <div>Online: oxfordmail.co.uk/advertise</div>	<div>VOLKSWAGEN</div> <div>VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI</div> <div></div> <div>Grey, 2005, 1984cc, Petrol, Manual, AirCon, Alarm, Alloys, 6CD, C/RL, Original owner. FSH, MOT July 2012. Tax June 2012 105000 miles</div> <div>07770801601</div> <div>£5,950</div>	<div>VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT</div> <div></div> <div>Diesel, saloon, 2.0L TDI, 2005, manual, 6 speed, superb condition, full service history, 103,000 miles, A/C, c/control, taxed, MOT Dec '12.</div> <div>01672 564923</div> <div>£4250</div>	<div><div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div><div>the wanted ads</div><div>Motors</div><div>NS the voice of local media</div></div>	
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* Source: Continental Research 2008; 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements.

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ROADSHOW PAYING CASH FOR GOLD, SILVER, COINS AND ANTIQUES 1ST THROUGH 5TH MAY!

By Jason Williams
STAFF WRITER

"It's a modern day goldrush as precious metal prices soar due to the unstable economy—it's a seller's market" says Archie Davis, Roadshow Representative.

Roll up your sleeves and get ready to start your cleaning early this year. The Treasure Hunters Roadshow opens Tuesday 1st May in Banbury and is looking for antiques and collectables. Remember those Dinky cars you played with as a kid? What about those old Hornby train sets? You know, the ones that have been stored away in the attic for the past 30 years. Well it's time to dig 'em out, along with any other

TREASURE HUNTERS ROADSHOW HAS BEEN TOURING THE WORLD SINCE 2001. THIS YEAR ALONE, WE WILL VISIT 3,000 CITIES AND OVER HALF A MILLION PEOPLE WILL CASH IN!

forgotten treasures. You might be sitting on a small fortune and not even know it.

Roadshow representative, Archie Davis, explains what the event is all about. "It's a chance to get paid today, on the spot, for your classic collectibles. We host over 3,000 shows every year throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. Toys, dolls, trains, pocket watches, old advertising signs, gold jewellery, coins, antiques and collectables, just about anything can be sold at the



CHECK IT OUT!

WHO	TREASURE HUNTERS
WHAT	OPEN TO THE PUBLIC TO SELL THEIR ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
WHERE	MERCURE WHATLEY HALL HOTEL BANBURY CROSS BANBURY, OX16 0AN
WHEN	MAY 1ST - 5TH TUES-FRI 9AM-6PM SATURDAY 9AM-4PM
DIRECTIONS	- 01295-253261
INFORMATION	- 01925-594904

**WE BUY ALL
POCKET
AND WRIST
WATCHES**

HOW IT WORKS

- Items of interest from your attic, garage, cellar, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring.
- No appointment is necessary.
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot and ship the item to the collector. The collector pays all shipping and handling charges.
- You get 100% of the offer with no hidden fees.

Roadshow. This event is popular because it puts money in people's pockets. At a typical show, we will see hundreds of people during the five day event. We will see a few unusual items, but mostly we will see a lot of old coins, gold jewellery, and a wide variety of antiques and collectibles. Last week at a show in Colchester, a retired dentist walked in with over 2 lbs. of dental gold fillings. "I would say that is pretty unusual, wouldn't you say?" commented Davis. The gentleman received over £5,000 for his gold fillings. He told Davis that over the years he would keep the extracted teeth when the owners didn't want them. He would throw them in a jar and over the years it added up to over 2 lbs. of gold. Now, not everyone has a jar of gold teeth lying around, but according to Archie, more



Above—Roadshow Specialist analyzes a gold ring brought in by a local resident in Edinburgh.

than you might cash in. Davis says, "The Roadshow receives a fair amount of gold each day of the 5 day event."

Broken jewellery, gold coins and dental gold have been the largest payouts so far with today's high gold prices. Archie Davis commented, "Other top categories at the Roadshow would have to be silver crowns and other coins, pocket watches and my personal favourite, old toys." Davis told me a story about a visitor at a recent Roadshow in Newbury. "An elderly gentleman walked into the show and asked if we were interested in old toys. He explained that he had kept all of the toys from his childhood and that they were outside in his car. I walked outside, and to my surprise his car was full of the coolest old toys I had ever seen: big old metals trucks, pedal cars, train sets, cast iron toys, he had it all. At the end of that day, he ended up walking away with over £3,000 for his old toys. His last comment to me was, 'Well, I guess it's time to let 'em go.'"

Whether you have 2 lbs. of gold or a single gold tooth, a car full of old toys or a single Barbie doll, you should visit the Roadshow this week. It's free, it's fun and it could put some money in your pocket, maybe a lot of money!

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ROADSHOW?**

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PERSONAL HOME VISIT**

WHAT WE BUY



COINS Any and all coins made before 1971: silver and gold coins, crowns, half crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences, fourpence, threepence, pennies and halfpennies. All conditions wanted!

GOLD & SILVER PRICES AT 40 YEAR HIGH for platinum, gold and silver during this event. Broken jewellery, dental gold, old coins, pocket watches, Sovereigns, Krugerrands, gold bars, Gold Eagles, Gold Pandas, Canadian Maple Leafs, etc.



JEWELLERY Gold, silver, platinum, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, all types of stones and metals, rings, bracelets, necklaces, etc. (including broken jewellery) all costume jewellery wanted.

WRIST & POCKET WATCHES Rolex, Tiffany, Hublot, Omega, Chopard, Cartier, Philippe, Ebel, Waltham, Swatch, Elgin, Bunn Special, Railroad, Illinois, Hamilton, all others.

TOYS, TRAINS, DOLLS All makers and types of toys: Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox/Lesney, Hot Wheels, Tonka, Buddy L, Smith Miller, Nylint, Robots, Battery Toys, Mickey Mouse, train sets—Hornby, Bachmann, Marklin, Lionel, all gauges, accessories (individual cars), dolls—Barbie dolls, GI Joe, Shirley Temple.



MILITARY ITEMS & SWORDS WWI, WWII, etc: swords, badges, clothes, photos, medals, knives, gear, letters. The older the swords, the better.



GUITARS & OTHER INSTRUMENTS Fender, Gibson, Martin, Rickenbacker, Gretsch, new and vintage amps, saxophones, wood winds, mandolins and all others.

ARTWORK & POTTERY Original Oil, Watercolours & Pastel paintings, Sculptures, Pottery & Porcelain, Glassworks etc.

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GOLD & SILVER
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